

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8396

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT CRISIS: MIXED SPECULATION ON NEXT MOVES

REF: ANKARA 2065 AND 2051

1. IN CHECKING WITH WIDE VARIETY OF SOURCES IN POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRESS, WE HAVE FOUND NO ONE ABLE TO PREDICT WITH CERTAINTY WHAT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WILL FOLLOW IRMAK'S FAILURE TO FORM GOVERNMENT. NECESSARILY, ALL DEPENDS ON OUTCOME OF PRESIDENT'S CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTY LEADERS, WHICH BEGAN MARCH 14 AND WILL CONTINUE NEXT WEEK. NEARLY ALL SOURCES SPECULATE, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT IS LIKELY FIRST TO ASK REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN ECEVIT (WHO WILL MEET WITH HIM MORNING MARCH 17) TO FORM GOVERNMENT. IN EVENT ECEVIT TURNS DOWN REQUEST OR IS UNSUCCESSFUL, AS IS WIDELY EXPECTED, PRESIDENT WOULD THEN RELUCTANTLY GIVE JOB TO SULEYMAN DEMIREL, CHAIRMAN OF JUSTICE PARTY (JP) AND LEADER OF CENTER-RIGHT NATIONALIST FRONT COALITION.

2. BEYOND THIS POINT, SPECULATION IS MIXED. SOME SOURCES

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BELIEVE MILITARY WILL NOT PERMIT DEMIREL TO TAKE OFFICE, OR

WILL TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT TWO PARTIES NOW IN HIS COALITION--
NATIONAL SALVATION AND NATIONALIST ACTION -- FROM ENTERING CABINET.
BY CONTRAST, PRO-JP SOURCES ARE CONFIDENT THAT DEMIREL WILL BE
ALLOWED TO FORM GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE WILL GOVERN SUCCESSFULLY.
THERE IS ALSO CONFLICTING SPECULATION THAT DECISION TO HOLD EARLY
ELECTIONS WOULD OR WOULD NOT FOLLOW A FAILURE BY DEMIREL TO PRO-
DUCE MAJORITY-BASED CABINET.

3. AMID THIS WELTER OF SPECULATION, HOWEVER, WE NOTE TWO
IMPORTANT ATTITUDES THAT ARE BROADLY SHARED: (A) SITUATION CANNOT
BE ALLOWED TO GO ON DRIFTING (CRISIS IS NOW IN ITS 177TH DAY),
ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF RUMORS OF MILITARY CONCERN; (B) DEMOCRATIC
SOLUTION OF CRISIS SOMEHOW CAN YET BE FOUND BEFORE ARMED
FORCES REACH END OF PATIENCE.
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